

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7670

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DEPTO 33

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- TEXT --

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OAS

SUBJECT: MFEM - PRIVATE MEETING OF CHIEFS OF DELEGATION

SUMMARY: IN AN UNANNOUNCED CHIEFS OF DELEGATION MEETING AT NOON ON NOVEMBER 11 TO TRY TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES ON THE RESOLUTION, THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RATHER EMOTIONALLY QUESTIONED THE SILENCE OF THE U.S. DELEGATION. I REPLIED THAT WE HAD KEPT SILENCE IN PUBLIC BECAUSE WE DID NOT WANT TO GIVE EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF TRYING TO INFLUENCE OTHER POSITIONS. I ADDED THAT WE WOULD ABSTAIN ON EITHER OF THE TWO TEXTS CURRENTLY BEFORE US. THE MEETING PRODUCED NO PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IN POSITIONS. WHILE THE PROSPECTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME AT QUITO APPEAR DIM, EFFORTS TO COME UP WITH NEW APPROACHES STILL CONTINUE. END SUMMARY

1. AT NOON TODAY THE CHAIRMAN, LUCIO PAREDES OF ECUADOR, CALLED AN UNANNOUNCED MEETING OF CHIEFS OF DELEGATION TO DISCUSS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS A NEW DRAFT RESOLUTION (REF QUITO 7641 - DEPTO 29). LUCIO PAREDES ASKED SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO TO INITIATE THE MEETING WHICH THE LATTER DID BY RECAPING THE CURRENT IMPASSE AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA MIGHT BE WORKED OUT.

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2. FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO OF URUGUAY SAID HE COULD NOT SEE HOW ANY DIFFERENT WORDING COULD CHANGE THE FACT THAT SOME NATIONS, SUCH AS HIS OWN, COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL THAT IMPLIED THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS. HE SAID HIS HANDS WERE COMPLETELY TIED AND SUGGESTED A CUSHION OF TIME BEFORE THIS COULD BE DECIDED. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED IN ORDER TO RESUME WHENEVER A CONSENSUS WAS DEVELOPED.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL OF CHILE REITERATED HIS COUNTRY'S OPPOSITION TO THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS.

4. VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO VOTE FOR THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS, BECAUSE IT IS THE HEALTH OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM THAT IS AT STAKE RATHER THAN THE LIFTING OF CUBAN SANCTIONS.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA OF BRAZIL SAID THAT HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT A PROPOSAL BEING MADE THAT COULD BE ACCEPTED BY A SUFFICIENT MAJORITY AND ALSO SAID THAT MORE TIME WOULD HAVE TO ELAPSE BEFORE SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD COME INTO BEING. HE ADDED THAT CUBA'S POSITION WAS NOT KNOWN AND THAT THEREFORE HE COULD UNDERSTAND THOSE COUNTRIES THAT WERE EITHER ABSTAINING OR VOTING NEGATIVELY UNTIL SOME SIGNAL FROM CASTRO WAS REVEALED. WHEN LIEVANO SAID THAT IT WAS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT CASTRO TO COME OUT AND ASK PUBLICLY FOR THE SANCTIONS TO BE LIFTED, SILVEIRA REPLIED THAT AS A PROFESSIONAL HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE VARYING DEGREES IN WHICH SUCH AN EXPRESSION COULD BE MADE.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER GUZMAN OF BOLIVIA SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS WILLING TO FORGET THE PAST AS LONG AS IT RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF PROTECTION IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD CONSULTED HIS GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AND HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR OF PERU THEN SAID THAT EACH COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF ITS OWN PROBLEMS, AS PERU HAD DONE (APPARENTLY REFERRING TO PERU'S SUPPRESSING CONFIDENTIAL

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OF ITS GUERRILLA MOVEMENT) BUT ADDED THAT HE HOPED A COMPROMISE FORMULA COULD BE FOUND.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL OF NICARAGUA REITERATED HIS ABSENTIONIST POSITION ON LIFTING SANCTIONS.

9. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO OF COSTA RICA APPEALED TO HIS COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT HIS PROPOSAL, STRESSING THAT THIS

DID NOT SIGNIFY A "GOOD CONDUCT CERTIFICATE FOR CASTRO WHICH HE DOES NOT DESERVE". FACIO STRESSED THAT THE OVER-RIDING ISSUE WAS THE HEALTH OF THE INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP.

10. FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO OF COLOMBIA EMOTIONALLY CALLED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION, STATING THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WAS AT STAKE AND THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES CASTRO'S PRESTIGE WAS HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE OAS. HE SAID VEHEMENTLY THAT THE SILENCE OF THE US DELEGATION WAS HIGHLY UNHEARD OF AND APPEALED FOR A US STATEMENT OF POSITION.

11. ARGENTINA REPEATED ITS COUNTRY'S POSITION IN FAVOR OF LIFTING SANCTIONS.

12. GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA SAID THAT HE STILL HOPED THAT SOME COMPROMISE WORDING MIGHT BE DEVELOPED SAYING, HOWEVER, THAT ANY FORMULA MUST MEET THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY COUNTRIES WHO STILL HAD PROBLEMS WITH CUBA.

13. I HAD NOT WISHED TO ENGAGE IN DEBATE AT THIS TIME, PREFERRING TO LET THE LATINS TRY TO SORT IT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES. FACED WITH LIEVANO'S EMOTIONAL OUTBURST, I SPOKE BRIEFLY SAYING THAT THE US HAD NOT SPOKEN IN PUBLIC BECAUSE IT DID NOT WISH TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF TRYING TO INFLUENCE ANYONE'S VOTE. I STRESSED THAT THE US HAD BEEN CRITICIZED IN THE PAST FOR INFLUENCING OTHER DELEGATIONS AT SIMILAR MEETINGS AND HAD ADOPTED ITS PRESENT POSITION FOR THAT REASON. I THEN SAID THE US WOULD ABSTAIN ON EITHER OF THE TWO DRAFT TEXTS OF RESOLUTIONS BEFORE US. I ADDED THAT I THOUGHT THAT OUR POSITION HAD BEEN KNOWN BY ALL. I DID NOT AGREE WITH THOSE THAT SAID THAT THE FAILURE TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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A CONCLUSIVE OUTCOME AT QUITO WOULD MEAN THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE OAS. I THOUGHT THE FACT THAT WE COULD ALL DISCUSS OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS REFLECTED A SENSE OF MATURITY AND THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE OR DISAGREE.

14. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING I APPROACHED LIEVANO TO REITERATE MY CONVICTION THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING DID NOT MEAN THE END OF THE OAS. LIEVANO SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE US TO USE ITS INFLUENCE ON SEVERAL OF THE DELEGATIONS WHOSE VOTE MIGHT BE DECISIVE.

15. I THEN SPOKE WITH FACIO, SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH I WAS AWARE OF HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH OUR POSITION, HE HAD KNOWN IT ALL ALONG AND THAT WE HAD NOT DEVIATED FROM IT. FACTION SAID THAT SOME STATEMENTS THAT HE HAD MADE TO A FEW

JOURNALISTS HAD BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY DISTORTED AND DISSEMINATED. HE ADDED THAT OTHER STATEMENTS CIRCULATED BY THE PRESS HAD NOT BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO HIM, BUT THAT THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT HE HAD MADE THEM.

16. WHILE LEAVING THE MEETING ROOM, I WAS APPROACHED BY RABASA, WHO ASKED ME WHAT MY REACTION WOULD BE TO A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD SIMPLY STATE THAT AS OF THE END OF THE MFM, RESOLUTION I OF THE NINTH MFM WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME A RECOMMENDATION (QUITO 7615 - DEPTO 20). I REPLIED THAT I WOULD GIVE THE PROPOSAL MY CONSIDERATION, AND WOULD BE BACK TO HIM ABOUT IT.
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